

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 INT-08 RSC-01 RSR-01 /032 W

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R 040531Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 7343

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PET, PK

SUBJ: WINTERSHALL/CONOCO DRILLING PLANS DELAYED TO 1974

1. C. B. CHOUDHRY, MANAGING DIRECTOR, WINTERSHALL/ CONOCO OPERATION, HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT PROJECT WILL BE UNABLE TO RESUME DRILLING IN SEPT. 1973, AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED, BECAUSE OF UNAVAILABILITY OF DRILLING SHIP AT PRESENT TIME. WINTERSHALL HAD EXCHANGED LETTER OF INTENT WITH WESTERN OFFSHORE DRILLING COMPANY FOR USE OF RIG NOW OPERATING IN PERSIAN GULF, BUT DEAL FELL THROUGH WHEN DEPARTURE OF THAT RIG FOR PAKISTAN UNAVOIDABLY DELAYED SEVERAL MONTHS. WITH CURRENT VERY TIGHT SUPPLY OF RIGS OF KIND REQUIRED FOR WINTERSHALL OPERATION, FIRM WAS UNABLE TO SECURE ANOTHER RIG FOR SIX MONTH SEASON (SEPT.- MARCH) WHEN DRILLING POSSIBLE.

2. CHOUDHRY STATED THAT WINTERSHALL HAD DONE EXTENSIVE STUDIES OF DATA COLLECTED DURING LAST DRILLING SEASON AND HAD MADE FIRM DECISION TO DRILL AT LEAST TWO AND POSSIBLY THREE NEW HOLES. THESE WILL NOW HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL SEPT. 1974.

3. HE REPORTED THAT GOP OFFICIALS WERE SHOCKED WITH THIS DELAY AND FEARS THAT RUMORS DELETERIOUS TO VENTURE MAY CIRCULATE. ECON COUNSELLOR INDICATED THAT IF OPPORTUNITY AROSE, EMBASSY OFFICIALS WOULD DRAW ON INFO IN ABOVE PARAGRAPHS TO TRY TO CLEAR UP ANY MISUNDERSTANDING THAT MAY ARISE. SOBER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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